

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 21-40 and add new claims 41-59 as follows:

Claims 1-40 (Cancelled).

41. (New) A method for controlling overload in a packet switched network comprising traffic sources, traffic destinations, and network nodes, the method comprising:

sending data units from a traffic source to a traffic destination along a forward path,

sending acknowledgments from the traffic destination to the traffic source along a backward path, if data units are received correctly at the traffic destination,

measuring load level both on the forward path and on the backward path, and
transmitting duplicate acknowledgements towards the traffic source when a measured load level on the forward path is higher than a first predetermined value and a measured load level on the backward path is higher than a second predetermined value.

42. (New) A method according to claim 41, comprising:

delaying acknowledgements when the measured load level on the forward path is higher than the first predetermined value and the measured load level on the backward path is lower than the second predetermined value.

43. (New) A method according to claim 41, comprising:

generating the duplicate acknowledgements in the same network node than where load level is measured.

44. (New) A method according to claim 41, comprising generating the duplicate acknowledgements in a different network node than where the load level is measured.

45. (New) A method according to claim 44, wherein the duplicate acknowledgements are generated in an access node providing the traffic sources and destinations access to the network, and the load level is measured in at least one network node located within the network.

46. (New) A method according to claim 45, wherein the network between the access nodes is an Asynchronous Transfer Mode network, the method comprising transporting load level information in resource management cells to said at least one access node.

47. (New) A method according to claim 41, wherein duplicate acknowledgements are generated in a network node by modifying the contents of successive incoming acknowledgements before transmitting them towards the traffic source.

48. (New) A method according to claim 47, wherein duplicate acknowledgements are transmitted towards the traffic source as long as the measured load level on the forward path remains higher than the first predetermined threshold.

49. (New) A method according to claim 47, wherein at most a predetermined fixed number of successive duplicate acknowledgements are transmitted towards the traffic source during a period when the measured load level in the forward path remains higher than the first predetermined threshold.

50. (New) A method according to claim 49, wherein after said predetermined fixed number of successive duplicate acknowledgements have been transmitted towards the traffic source, a new sequence of duplicate acknowledgements is started by generating duplicates of the next incoming acknowledgement.

51. (New) A method according to claim 41, wherein at least part of said duplicate acknowledgements are generated by producing totally new acknowledgements which are copies of previously transmitted acknowledgements.

52. (New) A method according to claim 51, wherein a fixed number of said new acknowledgements is transmitted towards the traffic source, the method comprising

discarding a corresponding number of succeeding acknowledgements arriving at the node from the traffic destination.

53. (New) A method according to claim 41, wherein duplicate acknowledgements are generated only on selected connections.

54. (New) A packet switched telecommunications network comprising:
nodes interconnected by transmission lines,
user terminals connected to said nodes, said user terminals acting as traffic sources when sending data packets and as traffic destinations when receiving data packets,
measuring means for measuring current load level in a node, and
duplicating means for generating duplicate acknowledgements and for sending said duplicated acknowledgements in the direction of the traffic source,
wherein said duplicating means are configured to generate the duplicate acknowledgements when a measured load level on a forward path from a traffic source to a traffic destination is higher than a first predetermined value and a measured load level on a backward path from the traffic destination to the traffic source is higher than a second predetermined value.

55. (New) A network according to claim 54, wherein at least one node comprises both the measuring means and the duplicating means.

56. (New) A network according to claim 55, wherein at least one of said at least one network node is an access node connecting at least one user terminal to the network.

57. (New) A network according to claim 55, wherein said network is configured to switch Internet Protocol data packets.

58. (New) A network according to claim 54, wherein said network is an Asynchronous Transfer Mode network, and the duplicating means are connected to the measuring means by a resource management cell flow carrying information on the load level.

59. (New) A node arrangement in a packet switched telecommunications network, the node arrangement comprising:

buffering means for buffering data packets traveling through the node, at least part of the data packets being acknowledgement packets,

measuring means for measuring current load level in the node, and

duplicating means, responsive to the measuring means, for generating duplicates of acknowledgement packets transferred through the node,

wherein said duplicating means are configured to generate the duplicate acknowledgements when a measured load level on a forward path from a traffic source to

a traffic destination is higher than a first predetermined value and a measured load level on a backward path from the traffic destination to the traffic source is higher than a second predetermined value.